

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 7th August 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	Jyoistha, 1287 B. S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	29th July 1880.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	27th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	30th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	27th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	27th July and 3rd August 1880.
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	1st August 1880.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	30th July 1880.
13	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca	300	28th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
15	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	400	28th ditto.
16	"Medinī"	Midnapore	250	
17	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	2nd August 1880.
18	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
19	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	2nd, 9th, and 23rd July 1880.
20	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	29th July 1880.
21	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	1st August 1880.
22	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	26th July 1880.
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	2nd August 1880.
24	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	
25	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	31st July 1880.
26	"Som Prakāsh"	Calcutta	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	4,000	26th ditto.
28	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	
29	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	31st ditto.
30	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
Tri-weekly.				
31	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta	.....
Daily.				
32	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	700	27th to 31st July and 2nd to 5th August 1880.
33	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	31st July to 6th August 1880.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	28th and 31st July and 7th August 1880.
35	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	3rd to 7th August 1880.
36	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	26th July and 5th August 1880.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
37	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	31st July 1880.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
38	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	29th ditto.
39	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	29th ditto.
40	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	2nd August 1880.
41	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	30th July 1880.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
43	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....	22nd July and 1st August 1880.

POLITICAL.

SAHACHAR,
July 26th, 1880.

WHILE generally approving of the settlement of Afghanistan as announced by Government, the *Sahachar*, of the 26th July, is still of opinion that, as soon as British troops return from the country, there will be fresh disturbances. Abdur Rahman will never be able to restore peace and order among the Afghans. The Liberal Government deserves credit for deciding upon a policy of withdrawal, the only one which can ever be beneficial to India. To the Afghans themselves, the restoration of Yakub Khan would have been exceedingly welcome; and this would have been the wisest course to follow, the more so, as Yakub is now gradually found to have been innocent in regard to all the charges that were brought against him. Be that as it may, he should now be released from his confinement.

**ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
July 27th, 1880.

2. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 27th July, dwells on the infringement of natural laws and injurious consequences which are certain to result from the violation of the eternal laws of Nature by any nation or Government. Regardless of the teachings of history, the British Government has impoverished the people of India by levying oppressive taxes; has emasculated them by means of a rigorous system of administration; and, as a consequence, has had to contend with fearful famines, while the British nation has been demoralized by an arbitrary exercise of power, and its neglect of the native army has led to the present scarcity of recruits.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 27th, 1880.

3. Referring to the proclamation of Abdur Rahman as Amir of Cabul, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 27th July, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 1.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 2nd, 1880.

4. The *Som Prakash*, of the 2nd August, refers to the disaster which has befallen the British army in Candahar, and observes that it is extremely desirable that at this time, when the whole English nation is burning to avenge the defeat, calm and moderate views should prevail. Instead of launching upon a war of extermination, which could only have the effect of improving the Afghans off the face of the earth, and of landing the British Government in financial insolvency, the Rulers should now seek to consolidate the authority of Abdur Rahman, whom they have just proclaimed Amir. He should be allowed as much independence and territorial possession as was enjoyed by Shere Ali. Candahar, Herat, and other places should be made over to him. This is the only wise course which is now feasible. Retribution will not make up for defeat and humiliation. The Editor scouts the idea of there being Russian officers among the army of Ayoob Khan.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
August 2nd, 1880.

5. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 2nd August, does not believe that the proclamation of Abdur Rahman, as Amir of Cabul, will lead to a termination of difficulties in that country. Afghanistan is now disintegrated, and there are at least three important factions now existing therein. As soon as the British troops return to India, these parties, the followers of Abdur Rahman, of the Wali, and those of Mahomed Jan, will contend for supremacy, and there will be internal strifes and dissensions, most probably ending in the overthrow of the Wali and Abdur Rahman. Would Government, if such a contingency ever took place, be prepared to again invade Afghanistan? The fact is, the choice of Abdur Rahman to fill the vacant throne of Cabul has been very unwise. That Sirdar is very poor, and is known to have been for many years a *protegé* of Russia. The treaty made with him excludes all foreigners, save the British, from Cabul. Now this would be productive of much difficulty if any Russians came even on a friendly visit.

There could have been no such objections raised if Yakub, who is not an ally of Russia, and is exceedingly popular with the Afghans, had been made Amir.

6. The same paper remarks that the people of this country were happier under the rule of the East India Company than they are now under the direct Government of the Crown. There are now indeed more outward signs of civilization and prosperity, but the people groan under the burden of poverty and over-taxation. Government again forces them to adopt costly institutions of the West, although they cannot afford to pay for them.

India under the direct Government of the Queen.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.
August 2nd, 1880.

7. The same paper refers to the feeling of disappointment which is gradually taking possession of the minds of the people at finding that the new Ministry are hesitating to repeal the Press Act and other obnoxious measures of the late Administration. The Editor strongly urges the Home authorities to do away with them.

The Liberal Government and the Press Act.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

8. We give below the substance of an article in the *Prabhāti* of the 26th July:—It is characteristic of the British Government in India that its laws are in a manner unalterable. Almost all the laws enacted by it have evoked public discussion in this country. Bad laws are condemned, while good laws are approved of. As an instance of the former, take the new Criminal Procedure Code, which has conferred powers of summary trial on Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates. The measure was loudly protested against, but the people were told to wait, and see how it would work. How many days have passed away since it became law, and its working is being yet anxiously watched by the public. Mr. Stephen was succeeded by Sir A. Hobhouse, and him has succeeded Mr. Stokes, whose term of office will shortly expire; but Mr. Stephen's work continues to exist, and will probably exist for ever. The Press Act and the Arms Act similarly have been loudly protested against. There have been petitions made, and the agitation regarding these measures has reached even Parliament. The Liberals in opposition denounced them vigorously, and gave India assurances of happiness. They returned to power, and the people of India expected that the promises of the Liberals would now be made good. But there is now a feeling of disappointment. Why is it that the new Ministry is no longer favorable? Have the Liberal leaders discovered, within the three months they have been in power, any merits where they only saw defects in these measures before? The people of this country had never expected that they would be told to wait. But why such excuses and shifts? Either they should be given plainly to understand that the acts of the late Ministry will not be reversed, or they should have their prayers granted. It is to be regretted that Lord Hartington and even Mr. Gladstone, should have thus approved of Lord Lytton's action, after having, while in opposition, expressed sympathy with the people of India only to gain power. Henceforth the latter will not be deceived by their words.

PRABHATI,
July 26th, 1880.

9. The same paper, of the 27th July, continues the subject noticed in the preceding paragraph, and remarks that it is perfectly unnecessary for Lord Ripon to wait and watch the working of the Vernacular Press Act, seeing that there is no room for doubt regarding the injurious character of that measure. How long will His Excellency wait, and how will he examine the question? It would be well if he could judge for himself, and was not guided by the counsels of the old advisers of Lord Lytton. No Englishman would for a moment think of taking away the liberty of the Press from the people of any country; and Lord Ripon was doubtless aware of the character

The Press Act.

PRABHATI,
July 27th, 1880.

of the Press Act while he was in England. Why is there any more delay? If it is necessary that there should be some delay in taking any action in reference to this measure, in order to enable the new Viceroy to act in an independent spirit, even that circumstance would be viewed with regret. What India wants is a Viceroy who should be neither too subservient, nor, on the other hand, too independent. A too subservient Viceroy (Lord Lytton) injured the people of this country as much as a too independent Viceroy (Lord Dalhousie) had done before him. The person filling the office of Governor-General should be a compromise between the two—a quiet, sober, courteous, and conscientious man. Lord Ripon is believed to be a man of this stamp, and it behoves him promptly to repeal the Press Act, and thus win the confidence of the people of India.

PRABHATI,
July 29th, 1880.

10. The same paper, of the 29th July, continues the subject of the preceding paragraph, and makes the following observations:—It appears from the tone of

The Press Act.

their remarks that the authorities are not in a haste to repeal the Vernacular Press Act. Indeed so many objections and excuses would never have been made, had not there been doubts still lingering in their minds. We see that the present Ministry have not the wish, or it may be the power, to reverse the acts of their predecessors. The redemption of pledges, it would seem, is no part of the statesmanship of the West: hence it is that the members of the new Cabinet are not eager to fulfil their promises. That Lord Lytton should have, during the continuance in office of the late Ministry, endeavoured to terminate the Afghan war, was entirely due to the fact that no other course equally advisable was open to him. In making Abdur Rahman Amir of Cabul, Lord Ripon has but followed the policy initiated by his predecessor; and if it proves successful, it is Lord Lytton, and not the present Viceroy, who will be entitled to the credit. The latter is in all respects following the lines of policy laid down by the former. Yakub Khan continues to be what he was made by Lord Lytton—an exile. Neither Lord Ripon nor the Liberal party has done anything particularly new in India or Afghanistan. The Liberals are treading in the footsteps of the Conservatives. Regarding Lord Hartington's statements in respect of Afghanistan, it is to be remarked that, so long as British troops remain in that country, the chances of peace and order prevailing therein are few and remote. A treaty with Abdur Rahman, the exclusion of foreigners from Afghanistan, the placing of an Envoy, the good services of a friendly Amir, and the proposal regarding a money subsidy, it is all the old story over again. We do not know if the late Ministry would have desired anything else. There is absolutely nothing new in these matters. How then shall we rely on the assurances of the Liberals? Considering that they have not originated any new policy in Afghanistan, there is no probability of their doing this in India. We had eagerly prayed for their success, but are now disappointed. Liberal and Tory we now find to be mere unmeaning party cries. If they have any significance that is not in reference to Indian affairs, the distinction is confined to British politics. Gladstone or Disraeli, Ripon or Lytton, they are all the same to India. The Press Act will remain in force, and it is useless to make any petitions.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

11. In reference to the license-tax, the same paper, of the 30th July, makes the following observations:—It

The license-tax.

is not easy to point out how the oppressions incidental to the levy of the license-tax, occasioned by the over-zealousness of the Government officers, might be prevented or rendered impossible. The fact is, as the almost universal protest against the imposition of this tax showed at the time, a direct tax is not suited to the circumstances of this country. The authorities, however, counted upon the forbearance of

PRABHATI,
July 30th, 1880.

the people, and did not hesitate to sanction its introduction. It was not necessary for them, it would seem, to bestow any thought on the suitability or otherwise of direct taxation to India. They might silence objections by pointing to the limits of taxable income laid down in the Act, and referring to the employment of native agency in the collection of the tax; a body of men who might be presumed to know more about their fellow countrymen than any others. All this is true, but man is self-seeking and liable to error. There would be always the temptation to do wrong, if by so doing one could expect promotion and favour with his official superiors. Most of the assessors are inexperienced young men fresh from the College, and fully prejudiced against traders and shop-keepers, whose honesty they always question. For all these reasons a direct tax is always found to be oppressive in its working. It therefore behoves Government to repeal the license-tax. The writer then proceeds to refer to the assessments which are now going on in the village of Halisahar in the 24-Pergunnahs. The work is being done in a most unsatisfactory manner; the assessor, it is said, not even taking the trouble to visit the locality.

12. Now that the work of the projected line from Sonarpore to Magrahat is about to be commenced, the same paper, of the 31st July, asks Government to so fix the direction of this railway that it may be within easy reach of the large number of populous villages with which this part of the country is studded. The line is designed to run through some of these villages to Magrahat, an important rice mart, and the object apparently is to draw the traffic of this great inland trade centre. In constructing a railway, however, the passenger traffic which might be available should also be taken into account; because, as has been seen in the case of the line to Port Canning, it is the receipts from passenger traffic which pay the expenses of such an undertaking. The authorities, therefore, should consult the convenience of the passengers. By making the line run near the villages of Benedanga, Hariharpore, Govindpore, Langalbere, Srirampore, Baruli, Baragechhe, Malancha, Manikpore, and others, and opening a station at Sonadanga, a large traffic in goods and passengers might be secured.

PRABHATI,
July 31st, 1880.

13. The same paper, in another article, despondingly observes that since there is no likelihood of the present Ministry repealing either the Press Act or the Arms Act, it does not seem probable that they will do away with the license-tax. The Liberals, it would seem, will not redress any of the grievances of the people of India. The latter have seen what they have done in Afghanistan, and can make a forecast of what they will do in reference to this country. Under a Liberal administration England and Ireland may gain a little, but not India. Mr. Gladstone, who has increased the income-tax in England, is not likely to repeal the oppressive license-tax in this country. The change of Ministry was regarded with anxious expectation, and it was hoped that the event would be productive of highly beneficial results. But as yet there is no sign of this noticed.

PRABHATI.

14. The same paper, of the 4th August, observes that Sir Ashley Eden has always been an opponent of the elective system of municipal representation. Ever since his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship of these provinces, he has expressed his displeasure with the elected Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality. In season and out of season, with or without any cause, His Honor has shown his liberality and wisdom by applying to them a few strong epithets. Whatever else he might have done, by conferring on natives the right of electing them Municipal Commissioners, Sir Richard Temple has become entitled to our gratitude. That Governor had many

PRABHATI,
August 4th, 1880.

virtues as well as faults, and these very nearly balanced each other. The elective system would never have been introduced into this country, if Sir Ashley Eden had been the ruler at that time. The administration of Sir Richard Temple was not successful, because he sought to please everybody. As a Civilian he showed some leaning towards his brother Civilians, but he also valued the good-will of the natives of the country. His action in the Kirkwood case was of the nature of a compromise, which did not satisfy anybody. Sir Ashley is the very opposite of Sir Richard Temple. The former does not wish to please the people, and only acts as he thinks best. He is not unwilling to listen to the words of a few flatterers, or confer favours on a few favorite Bengalis. But towards the Bengalis as a class he is not very favorably disposed. While uneducated and subservient Bengalis are regarded by him as genuine types of the Bengali race, the educated, independent, and outspoken men among them are looked down upon as disloyal; and it is because, owing to the prevalence of the elective system, certain Bengalis answering to this description have found admission into the Calcutta Municipality, that the Corporation has become an eyesore to him. He takes every opportunity of casting ridicule on them, and is more disposed to find fault with them than to appreciate their good work. So prejudiced has he become against these men, that even their merits are sometimes represented as faults, and their faults are grossly exaggerated. His recent Resolution on the last Administration Report of the Commissioners is disfigured by a one-sidedness and an unjust criticism of their work, which are really disagreeable to every impartial mind. It is well known that, if he had the power, he would have long since abolished the elective system, but to attempt the abrogation, even if he had the right to do so, of a measure which was accomplished by a former Lieutenant-Governor, and had received the assent of the Governor-General, and which is regarded with favour by the whole country, would be too much even for the recklessness of Sir Ashley Eden. Unable to give any practical indication of his displeasure, he manifests it as far as practicable in his writings. It is gratifying to find that the elected Commissioners, who are all energetic and conscientious men, are doing their duty regardless of the sneers and ridicule of the Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Ashley Eden might have placed obstacles in the way of the general election which took place after three years, but since he has not done this, the Corporation is now safe. Meanwhile, his term of office is nearly up, and the Commissioners can therefore afford to ignore unjust criticism and work on honestly. The elective system will gradually prove a success in spite of the hostility of Lieutenant-Governors enjoying a short-lived authority.

PRABHATI,
August 5th, 1880.

15. The same paper, of the 5th August, remarks that, if the two navigable canals at Beliaghata be closed for repairs at the same time, great inconvenience

will be caused to the mahajuns of this place who carry on a large trade. The authorities are asked to close one canal at a time, or, if this cannot be done, to cause the excavation of a new one between Beliaghata and the Hooghly.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 28th, 1880.

16. A correspondent of the *Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 28th July, adverts to the action of the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, and a road in Napará.

The Magistrate of Barrackpore, and a road in Napará. Magistrate of Barrackpore in reference to a dispute regarding a public road leading to the river in the village of Napará between the Manager of the Shyám Nagar Cotton Mill and the inhabitants. The road in question was obstructed by the Manager, Mr. Morrison, on the plea that, when left open, the cattle of the villagers strayed into his grounds and injured his garden. The Magistrate therefore visited the place to make enquiries, and took the evidence of the villagers and of one of the local Municipal Commissioners, which was to the effect that the road had been long used by them for the purpose of resorting to the river and was the property of the

Municipality. The officer, however, did not pronounce any opinion on the occasion. His bearing towards those who had assembled to give evidence was extremely rude. He rode in a trolley placed at his disposal by Mr. Morrison, himself a Municipal Commissioner, and took his breakfast at that gentleman's house. The offshot of all this was that the Magistrate asked Mr. Morrison, the man complained against, to decide the matter. The decision has been since made known to the villagers, and is to the effect that the road was not a public road, and hence its obstruction by the authorities of the mill was not illegal. The villagers have thus been obliged to repair to the river by another and more distant road. The writer speaks of the high-handed proceedings of Mr. Morrison, who frequently seizes such of the cattle of the villagers as may have strayed into his grounds, and levies a fine of one rupee on each. The whole matter is one which should receive the attention of Government.

17. The same paper, of the 2nd August, directs the attention of the authorities to the hardship and inconvenience caused to the third-class passengers at the Howrah Station when purchasing their tickets. The place is very narrow, and there is considerable pushing and jostling. Since the abolition of the booking office at the Armenian Ghât on the Calcutta side, all the passengers have had to purchase their tickets at the Howrah Station, and the room therefore, where they are booked, is intensely crowded. The writer suggests that there should be an additional booking office and additional hands sanctioned to expedite the issue of tickets to the third-class passengers, and that further there should be a few females appointed to issue tickets to the female passengers.

18. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 27th July, expresses great disappointment at the attitude of the new Ministry towards the Vernacular Press Act. The Liberals in opposition had vigorously denounced the measure; but now, when they have returned to power, they seem to have forgotten all about it. Lord Hartington has adroitly thrown all responsibility on the shoulders of Lord Ripon, who, it seems, cannot take any decisive action in this matter without consulting his counsellors and the local authorities. Now, in that case, the decision is likely to be in favor of the retention of the Press Act. But does it not behove His Excellency to attach more weight to the opinions of the two hundred and fifty millions of this country, than to the advice of those who are in a manner bound to support the measure? The confidence in the Liberals has been shaken.

19. The *Srihatta Prakāsh*, of the 26th July, contains an article severely condemning Lord Lytton's administration. As long as British rule continues in this country, so long will Lord Lytton be cursed by the people of India for the injury he inflicted on them in the days of his power.

20. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar* of the 26th July:—English politicians, to whatever party they may belong, all labour under one error respecting the administration of India. They, it would seem, are convinced that it is never wise to reverse any act which may have been sanctioned by the Viceroy, because it is supposed this would be lowering the highest officers on the spot in the estimation of the people, and thus injuring the prestige of Government. Even Mr. Gladstone, in whose honesty of intention the whole world has unbounded confidence, declared himself, during the late political agitations in England, in favour of this view. He instanced the action of the Liberal

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
August 2nd, 1880.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
July 27th, 1880.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
July 26th, 1880.

SAHACHAR,
July 26th, 1880.

party respecting the conquest of Sindh to announce that the Liberals were prepared to follow a similar course in Afghanistan.

The people of India have always held that what is right should always be followed, whether it is the interests of an individual or of a nation that are at stake. They have never made any distinction between the administrative and the judicial officers, and hold that the laws should be strictly followed by both. Not so in Europe, where the morality of diplomacy is something different from the morality of judicial officers, and acts which are considered reprehensible, if committed by a private individual, are tolerated in public life. The Home authorities are morally bound to rectify the wrongs inflicted on the people of India by the local Governments. What evil, it may be asked, could possibly result from the reversal by the Ministry of the inequitable public measures of Lord Lytton's administration? It is idle to argue, and it is an error to suppose, that this would lower the prestige of the Governor-General. Do the English politicians really consider the people of India so foolish that they are not aware of the relations which exist between the Governor-General and the Home authorities? When an appellate court rectifies any error on the part of a lower court, does the latter forfeit its reputation for honesty? Certainly not. But if, on the other hand, the higher tribunal confirmed the erroneous decision of the lower court, the people would soon lose all confidence in the former's impartiality. The former course raises both parties in the public estimation. It therefore behoves the English Ministry to redress any wrongs which may have been brought upon the people of this country through the action of the local Government.

SAHACHAR,
July, 26th 1880.

21. All doubts, remarks the same paper, regarding the manner in which the error discovered in the budget of Sir John Strachey was rendered possible will be removed by reading the following extract from an English paper. [Here the extract is given.] This clearly shows that it was no error on the part of Sir John Strachey and Lord Lytton, who purposely made low estimates of war expenditure, to obtain the favour of the Beaconsfield Ministry. No one will believe the explanation which has been recently put forth by the Finance Minister. Lord Cranbrook, however, deserves credit for condemning the action of Lord Lytton's Government in this matter of the budget. The writer concludes by calling on the British public to impeach Lord Lytton for his mal-administration of Indian affairs.

SAHACHAR.

22. The same paper dwells on the unsatisfactory manner in which the work of the Suburban Municipality is carried on. Most of the Commissioners are non-entities. Mr. Sterndale is all in all. He it is who levies the taxes, spends them, and accounts for them in his administration report. There was at first no surplus in his last budget, but the Commissioners making some agitation, this apt pupil of Sir John Strachey soon improvised one. The last meeting of the Commissioners witnessed a most scandalous proceeding. The increase to the Vice-Chairman's pay, which it was well-known had been disallowed by the Lieutenant-Governor, was found to be included in the revised budget, and no papers in support of this act were produced before the Commissioners. Mr. Beadon, whose step-mother is Mr. Sterndale's sister, defended the Vice-Chairman.

SAHACHAR,

23. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the disappointment and heart-burning which, owing to the interference of the local authorities, were caused to the large number of pilgrims assembled to witness the drawing of the Car at Pooree on the appointed day. As a matter of fact, it was not drawn on that day.

The Car festival at Pooree.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 27th July, notices a few fresh cases of robbery by house-breaking which have recently occurred in the Burdwan district. The police is notoriously inefficient.

The Burdwan Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 27th, 1880.

25. In commenting on the financial position of India, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 27th July, remarks that the salt duties constitute the most unobjectionable of all the taxes levied in India. The equalization of these duties, for which so much credit has been claimed by Sir John Strachey, was only rendered possible by the relinquishment of a large revenue by certain of the Native States. Whether this sacrifice of revenue on their part was voluntary or forced by the action of the Indian Government has not yet transpired; the papers relating to this subject have not been yet published. The excise revenue is gradually expanding, but this is not a matter for rejoicing. The authorities are slowly finding out that a direct tax is not suited to the circumstances of this country; and the license-tax is, sooner or later, certain to be repealed. The article is thus concluded:—We admit that, in the days of the old John Company, there was not, as now, so much enlightenment and progress noticeable in this country, but at the same time we cannot deny that with the days of the Company have disappeared clear accounts and adjustments of public income and expenditure. Elaborate budgets and elaborate figures, and elaborately complicated principles of finance, seem to be the order of the day. The Company took delight in commerce; the Government now takes pleasure in durbars and extensions of territory. While after ruling the country for a hundred years, and putting out the fearful conflagration of the Sepoy Mutiny, the old Company bequeathed to its successors a public debt only amounting to 61 crores of rupees; the Government of India has, during the few years since the Mutiny, had its liabilities increased to 146 crores. The increase of the public debt, according to some economists, is an evidence of the growing prosperity of the country; but if that is true, why are the people crying for a morsel of food?

The salt duties, &c.

BHARAT MIHIR,
July 27th, 1880.

26. The same paper, in noticing the passing of the Vaccination Bill into law, asks Government to cause the publication of a notice in every village, to the effect that, if any one has any objection to undergo vaccination, his case, when properly represented, will be duly considered by the authorities. Such a notice will go a long way to remove the anxieties of the opponents of vaccination.

The Vaccination Act.

BHARAT MIHIR

27. The same paper regrets to learn that Mr. Croft has discontinued the monthly grant of Rs. 500 to the School Book Society, and has, by a recent circular, directed the purchase of books for the use of school and college libraries from Messrs. Brown and Company of Calcutta. Mr. Croft, it would seem, has forgotten the usefulness of the Society. As its President, he it is who should be held responsible for the mismanagement of its affairs, and it was his duty to adopt measures to rectify it. Instead of doing this, he has taken the opportunity to inflict upon it a deadly blow, and thereby pave the way for the success of Messrs. Brown and Company. The Lieutenant-Governor, it may be trusted, will interfere and save this old and useful institution from impending ruin.

Mr. Croft and the School Book Society.

BHARAT MIHIR.

28. The same paper complains that, in defiance of the local public opinion, the Magistrate, Mr. Alexander, has quite arbitrarily obstructed the riverside road in Mymensingh, so that the inhabitants are obliged to use another and more circuitous road for the purpose of coming to the court.

The riverside road in Mymensingh.

BHARAT MIHIR.

BHARAT MIHIB,
July 27th, 1880.

29. The same paper remarks that, in spite of the clearest instructions of the Lieutenant-Governor to the contrary, the pay of the District Road Cess Engineer of Mymensingh has been quite unnecessarily raised from Rs. 550 to Rs. 750. A competent Native Engineer, such as the one whose services were dispensed with, may be found for Rs. 400. There is again a proposal under consideration to purchase an elephant for the use of the Engineer, an equally needless and costly arrangement.

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 1st, 1880.

30. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 1st August, gives a brief summary of the report of the Bengal Rent Law Commission, and remarks that, as the document does not represent the unanimous views of the members, its usefulness is liable to be questioned. The subject of the transfer of occupancy rights is an important one; and if the views embodied in the report are carried out, the interests of the landlords will greatly suffer. The efforts which are now being made to amend the existing law of landlord and tenant, if successful, will but aggravate the difference between these classes.

DACCA PRAKASH.

31. The same paper observes that the people of India would seem to be destined to always indulge in hopes which are never to be realized. They have been, for a long time past, humoured by promises of elevation to superior appointments in the public service of their own country, but these promises still remain unfulfilled. Much was expected of the Liberals. While in opposition, they vigorously denounced the Press Act and the Arms Act, but now, when they have returned to power, they make no sign of repealing those measures. Wonderful is the diplomacy of English statesmen!

DACCA PRAKASH.

32. A correspondent of the same paper refers to the terms in accordance with which the mouzadars in Assam are to collect the road cess from the people of that province. These terms are anything but favorable to the former, who are under them made liable for the amount of unrealized cess. This is really hard upon these men, upon whom the collection of the road cess has been imposed as an additional work.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 2nd, 1880.

33. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 2nd August, remarks that Mr. Croft has done well in stopping the monthly grant hitherto allowed to the School Book Society. By this act he has become entitled to the gratitude of all thinking and experienced men in this country. In these days of competition, the institution is an anachronism, and the grant ought to have been discontinued at least twenty years ago.

SOM PRAKASH.

34. The same paper dwells on the complicated nature of the finances of India, which present difficulties even to experienced financiers. Now that Mr. Gladstone is at the head of the Cabinet—a man whose knowledge of finance is unrivalled—it is earnestly to be hoped that something will be done to improve this state of things.

SOM PRAKASH.

35. The same paper asks Lord Ripon to signalize his administration and immortalise himself by doing some grand work in this country. India offers an extensive field for the efforts of philanthropic statesmen. His Excellency should endeavour to inaugurate a reign of impartiality by repealing once for all the many legislative enactments and administrative measures conceived in a spirit of narrowness, which cause an invidious distinction to be made between

the different classes of Her Majesty's subjects in India. He will doubtless meet with intense opposition from the privileged classes if he attempts this task. Government, however, should not shrink from doing a good work for fear of offending a self-seeking party.

36. The Hooghly correspondent of the same paper refers to the high qualifications, and the splendid abilities, of the Deputy Magistrate Baboo Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, and asks Sir Ashley Eden to confer on him some title of honor and a high executive post, such as that of a District Magistrate.

SOM PRAKASH,
August, 2nd 1880.

37. In an article on the Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the last administration report of the Calcutta Municipality, the *Samvad Prabhakar* of the 4th August makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 14.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR
August, 4th 1880.

38. We have this week received two numbers of a new Urdu weekly paper published at Calcutta. It is entitled the *Tejarat-ul-Akhbar*, and gives the prices current of all articles of merchandise in the metropolis, besides containing items of news regarding different subjects.

A new paper.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 7th August 1880.

